

A brief tribute to Keith Hobbs

Like many in NWBA, I will first and foremost remember Keith as a friend. We first met him personally when Jan and I were beginning our journey into ministry, and his kindness and care as we made our way through the Ministerial Recognition process has always stayed with me. It was some years later that Keith ordained me into Baptist ministry in the church building in which over 30 years' earlier I had been presented and dedicated as an infant.

Keith continued to take an interest in our wellbeing and ministry, always seeking me out at Baptist Assemblies, though neither of us ever imagined that a few years later, he would be inducting me as his successor (or as near as a Regional Minister is a successor of an Area Superintendent) when NWBA was launched as one of our Union's new Regional Associations.

Keith served the churches of NWBA with faithfulness and diligence. He pastored congregations in Stretford and Burnley, before a brief spell across the Pennines at Grimsby. He then returned to the North West serving first as a tutor at Northern Baptist College and then as Area Superintendent until he retired in 2001.

The affection and high regard in which Keith is held across our Association has been increasingly evident in recent months as the news of his deteriorating health has been shared. Keith was an incredibly humble man – in the early days of my role as Regional Minister, it intrigued his former colleagues who would visit the NWBA office, to find him in his overalls fixing the radiators or painting the church buildings at Latchford.

We give God thanks for such a great friend and example. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brenda and the family as they mourn his passing.

Phil Jump

Regional Minister

Details of the Thanksgiving Service for Keith are now available. This will be held at Chesterfield Baptist Church at 2pm on Monday 10th April.

[Click here for more details.](#)